

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 08653

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, MARR, US, GW
SUBJECT: VIEWS OF FDP DEFENSE BUNDESTAG DEPUTY ON AWACS

SUMMARY

DURING A CONVERSATION TODAY, THE FDP BUNDESTAG
SPOKESMAN ON DEFENSE MATTERS EXPRESSED HIMSELF AS BEING
"CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC" ON AWACS. END SUMMARY

1. DURING A LUNCHEON CONVERSATION TODAY WITH MOELLEMAN,
THE FDP BUNDESTAG MEMBER WHO ACTS AS SPOKESMAN FOR THE
PARTY'S PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON DEFENSE MATTERS, THE
POLITICAL COUNSELOR TOOK THE OCCASION TO REVIEW OUR
POSITION ON AWACS. HE EXPLAINED THE MILITARY AND POLI-
TICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SYSTEM AS WELL AS THE STEPS
THAT THE US HAD TAKEN TO ENSURE GERMAN PARTICIPATION IN
THE BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM.

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2. MOELLEMAN, WHO HAD INITIATED THIS DISCUSSION BY
ASKING FOR OUR CURRENT VIEWS ON AWACS, SAID HE SHARED
THE CONCERN OF OTHER BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES ABOUT THE "TWO-
WAY STREET" AND ABOUT THE NEED FOR "SOME COMPENSATION"
ON AWACS. HOWEVER, HE OBSERVED, THE FDP PARLIAMENTARY
GROUP WAS PRIMARILY INFLUENCED BY POLITICAL CONSIDERA-
TIONS OF ALLIANCE SOLIDARITY, AT LEAST IN PART BECAUSE

THIS WAS THE ASPECT OF AWACS THAT WEIGHED MOST HEAVILY
IN FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER'S REASONING ON AWACS.

3. MOELLEMAN SAID HE THOUGHT THAT SUCH ACTIONS AS THE
US PURCHASES OF THE 120 MILLIMETER TANK GUN AND OF
GERMAN VEHICLES HAD BEEN USEFUL IN PREPARING A PROPER
CLIMATE ON AWACS. HE SAID HE WAS NOT SURE WHAT OTHER
STEPS OF "COMPENSATION" MIGHT BE ADVISABLE, THOUGH HE
WAS WELL AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE THAT THE CDU ATTACHED
TO THE GEPARD ISSUE. HE SAID THAT HE THOUGHT US
COMMITMENTS FOR FUTURE PURCHASES, OR EVEN US STATEMENTS
ON INTENT IN THIS DIRECTION, WOULD PROVE HELPFUL.

4. MOELLEMAN SAID THAT ONE PROBLEM WAS THE MATTER OF
TIMING. HE SAID THAT THE BUNDESTAG HAD ONLY BEEN SEIZED
WITH THE AWACS QUESTION VERY RECENTLY. THIS WAS ONE
REASON, HE SAID, WHY MINISTER APEL WOULD NOT BE CARRYING
ANY COMMITMENT TO THE DPC MEETING.

5. THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR POINTED OUT THE DANGER THAT
EXCESS DELAY WOULD INCREASE THE PRICE OF THE SYSTEM, AS
WELL AS THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF HAVING SOMETHING
POSITIVE ON AWACS EMERGE FROM THE SUMMIT.

6. SUMMING UP HIS PART OF THIS DISCUSSION, MOELLEMAN
SAID HE BELIEVED THAT THE SPD DEPUTIES WOULD SUPPORT
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AWACS AND THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THE FDP DEPUTIES WOULD
DO SO. THEREFORE, HE CONCLUDED, HE FELT "CAUTIOUSLY
OPTIMISTIC" THAT THE BUNDESTAG WOULD APPROVE THE SYSTEM.
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